

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
between NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY and  
THE KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between Northern Kentucky University, located in Highland Heights, Kentucky, and the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, a governmental agency of the Commonwealth, with its address at 100 Airport Road, Second Floor, Frankfort KY 40601.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (Council or CPE) is responsible for determining tuition at public postsecondary institutions in the Commonwealth of Kentucky;

WHEREAS, the Council annually adopts a Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy (Policy) based on the following fundamental objectives:

- Funding Adequacy;
- Shared Benefits and Responsibility;
- Affordability and Access;
- Effective Use of Resources; and
- Attracting and Importing Talent to Kentucky

WHEREAS, the Policy acknowledges that in order to meet the last objective, the Council and the institutions are committed to making Kentucky institutions financially attractive to nonresident students;

WHEREAS, the standard for non-resident tuition articulated in the Policy requires that in any given year, the average net tuition and fee revenue generated per nonresident undergraduate student equals or exceeds 130% of the annual full-time tuition and fee charge assessed to resident undergraduate students (i.e., the published in-state sticker price);

WHEREAS, the Policy allows institutions to request exceptions to the 130% threshold through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process that delineates goals and strategies embedded in enrollment management plans that advance the unique missions of requesting institutions;

WHEREAS, Northern Kentucky University (NKU) desires to align financial aid around its strategic framework to improve access for students, particularly first generation, underrepresented and international, and create a geographically diverse student population;

WHEREAS, NKU requests an exception to the 130% threshold in order to assist in obtaining those goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council and NKU do enter into this Agreement for the purpose and period specified below.

SECTION ONE: TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT

1. Northern Kentucky University has launched a new undergraduate tuition program—the NKU Tri-state program – beginning Fall 2025. Under the NKU Tri-state program, beginning in Fall 2025, new first-time freshmen from Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana will pay the in-state annual tuition rate plus all mandatory fees (in 2024-2025, \$11,088 annual tuition, a rate that will be subject to change based on tuition increases in 2025 onward). NKU Tri-state offers the in-state tuition rate to recognize students from the states of Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana, which comprise our tri-state region. These states are geographically strategic and also align with our mission as a regionally engaged, regional comprehensive university. All students outside of Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana (domestic and international) will be charged the same tuition rate, one that is at least 130% of the NKU Tri-state rate (proposed as \$14,999 for Fall 2025). For all students to be eligible for admission, they must have a high school GPA of 2.0 unweighted or greater. Other stipulations of the program are as follows:

- a. The NKU Tri-state program is not available for students enrolled in fully online academic programs.
- b. Current students who are residents of Ohio and Indiana will retain their current tuition and institutional scholarships/discount pricing model, subject to any applicable approved tuition rate increases.
- c. NKU will continue to have two competitive scholarships (Presidents and Governors) offered to a limited number of the highest-achieving high school students from any state.
- d. NKU will offer academic merit scholarships as follows. Kentucky residents who qualify for higher levels of academic merit scholarships based upon high school GPA will receive amounts of \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000 per year at corresponding GPA levels. Ohio and Indiana residents will qualify for lower levels of academic merit scholarships per year based upon high school GPA at \$2,000 and \$1,000 amounts. Residents of states and countries outside of Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana are ineligible for these academic merit scholarships. However, all students are eligible to apply for NKU foundation-funded scholarships.
- e. Northern Kentucky University will ensure that academically qualified Kentucky residents will not be displaced as a result of this agreement.
- f. Academic merit and competitive scholarship amounts will be reviewed on an annual basis and are dependent on available funds.
- g. This agreement eliminates the EDGE scholarship featured in its 2020 CPE MOU for new students from 2025 onward.

2. The Council agrees that while the NKU Tri-state program will allow three “Tri-state” states’ residents the same tuition and fee rates, all other nonresidents’ rates will equal or exceed 130% of the annual full-time tuition and fee charge assessed to undergraduate Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana residents. The increased nonresident student enrollment from Ohio and Indiana will benefit both the Commonwealth and Northern Kentucky University.

3. The Council agrees that due to the benefits of the “NKU Tri-state” program to the Commonwealth and Northern Kentucky University, an exception to the nonresident tuition and fee policy is granted.

4. Northern Kentucky University agrees to report to the council annually the results of this agreement. This report will include a summary of the entire program with breakouts of each geographic area in

which a tuition and fee rate changes or discounts are applied. Both the summary and the breakouts shall include the following:

- a. Total applications received and total accepted;
- b. Total enrollment;
- c. Enrollment demographics;
- d. Retention, graduation, and degrees conferred for the total area and broken down by each demographic group (as they become available);
- e. Total tuition and fee revenue generated by semester; and
- f. Average tuition and fee revenue collected for each student.

5. The Council reserves the right to request any additional data related to the program to assist in evaluating the impact of the Tri-state program.

#### SECTION TWO: LENGTH OF THE AGREEMENT

Upon approval by the Council, this agreement shall be effective beginning in the Fall 2025 semester. This agreement shall renew annually upon mutual consent of the parties.

APPROVED:

Aaron Thompson, PhD \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
President, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Cady Short-Thompson, PhD \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
President, Northern Kentucky University

Travis Powell \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
General Counsel, Council on Postsecondary Education

Grant Garber (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
General Counsel, Northern Kentucky University